

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

In response to the Office Action dated May 6, 2011, the Applicant amends the application and requests continued examination. In this Amendment claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-19 have been amended. claims 5, 14, 21-25, 27 and 28 are cancelled. Claims 29-31 are added. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-19, and 29-31 are now pending. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the Patent Application as originally filed.

*Claim Amendments*

Independent claim 1 is amended to describe that claim 1 is directed to a laminated adjustment shim for compensation of play in a mechanical assembly. Support for this amendment may be found at, e.g., page 1, lines 10-13 of the Specification. Claim 1 is also amended to describe that the housing is a blind housing that has an opening at a surface of the shim. Support for this amendment may be found at, e.g., page 6, lines 19-21 of the Specification and Figures 1-2.

Claim 4 is amended to clarify that the memory stores at least one of numerous forms of identifying information that identifies the shim. Support for this amendment may be found at, e.g., page 5, lines 19-27 of the Specification.

Claim 10 is amended to clarify that the electronic component includes means for measurement of at least one of temperature, pressure, vibrations, and irradiation. Support for this amendment may be found at, e.g., page 10, lines 17-21 of the Specification and claim 10 as originally filed.

New independent claim 29 describes a laminated adjustment shim. The shim includes a stack of alternating sheets and layers of an adhesive material. The sheets extend in a first direction and the stack extends in a second direction; the second direction defines the thickness of the stack. The shim also includes a blind housing within the thickness of the stack that extends in the first direction. An electronic component located in the blind housing comprises a memory, a transmission device, and an antenna. The antenna is proximate an opening at the surface of the shim. A

dielectric glass envelope, that extends in the first direction, seals and encapsulates the electronic component and is located within the blind housing. Support for claim 29 may be found throughout the Specification and in Figures 1 and 2.

New claim 30 describes that the antenna, the transmission device, and the memory are aligned in the first direction. Support for claim 30 may be found in Figure 2.

New claim 31 describes that the memory as storing at least one of numerous forms of identification information that identifies the shim. Support for claim 31 may be found at, e.g., page 5, lines 19-27 of the Specification.

*Applicant's Response to Prior Art Rejections*

Examined claims 1-9, 11-15, 18, and 19 were rejected as obvious over Springer (U.S. Patent No. 2,106,385) in view of Brady et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,804, hereafter "Brady") and further in view of Afzali-Ardakani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,767,789, hereafter "Afzali-Ardakani"). Claims 5 and 14 are cancelled, rendering this rejection moot as to claims 5 and 14. Considering the amendments to claim 1, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is amended to describe a blind housing, located within the thickness of the stack, and having an opening at a surface of the shim. A non-limiting example of a blind housing is depicted in Figures 1 and 2 of the Patent Application. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate a blind housing 20 that is located within the thickness of a stack 10. The blind housing 20 has an opening 23 at the surface of the shim. Additionally, the housing 20 is blind because it does not fully extend through the shim in the direction II-II of Figure 1.

In the Office Action, the Examiner construed element 14 in Figures 1 and 5 of Springer as the housing of claim 1. Springer discloses that element 14 includes "apertures for the passage of bolts or other fastening means extending between the two members". See page 1, column 2, lines 30-34 of Springer. It is clear from Figures 1 and 5 of Springer that the aperture represented by element 14 is not blind.

Rather, the aperture is a through-hole that extends fully through the shim and has openings at two surfaces of the shim.

Springer does not teach or suggest the blind housing described in amended claim 1. Additionally, the Examiner has not alleged that either Brady or Afzali-Ardakani teach or suggest a blind housing as described in amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable because Springer in view of Brady and further in view of Afzali-Ardakani fail to establish *prima facie* obviousness.

Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15, 18 and 19 depend upon claim 1 and are therefore allowable over Springer, Brady, and Afzali-Ardakani for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 5, 8, 14, and 15 were rejected as obvious over Springer in view of Brady in further view of Afzali-Ardakani and Garber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,448,886, hereafter "Garber"). Claims 5 and 14 are cancelled, rendering this rejection moot as to claims 5 and 14. Claims 8 and 15 depend upon claim 1. The Examiner has not alleged that Garber teaches or suggests a blind housing, as described in amended claim 1, in order to overcome the deficiencies of Springer in view of Brady and further in view of Afzali-Ardakani. Therefore, claims 8 and 15 are allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 10 was rejected as obvious of over Springer in view of Brady and further in view of Afzali-Ardakani and Paratore et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,294,997, hereafter "Paratore"). Claim 10 depends upon claim 1. The Examiner has not alleged that Paratore teaches or suggests a blind housing, as described in amended claim 1, in order to overcome the deficiencies of Springer in view of Brady and further in view of Afzali-Ardakani. Therefore, claim 10 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 16 and 17 were rejected as obvious over Springer in view of Brady and further in view of Afzali-Ardakani and Murasawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,207,004). The Examiner has not alleged that Murasawa teaches or suggests a blind housing, as described in amended claim 1, in order to overcome the deficiencies of Springer in

view of Brady and further in view of Afzali-Ardakani. Therefore, claims 16 and 17 are allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 17 was rejected as obvious over Springer in view of Brady and further in view of Afzali-Ardakani, Garber, and Murasawa. The Examiner has not alleged that either Garber or Murasawa teaches or suggests a blind housing, as described in amended claim 1, in order to overcome the deficiencies of Springer in view of Brady and further in view of Afzali-Ardakani. Therefore, claim 17 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

New independent claim 29 describes a laminated adjustment shim. Figures 1 and 2 of the Patent Application illustrate a non-limiting example of the adjustment shim described in claim 29. The shim includes a stack of alternating sheets and layers of an adhesive material. The sheets extend in a first direction, e.g., along line II-II in Figure 1. The stack extends in a second direction, e.g., perpendicular to line II-II in Figure 1. The second direction defines the thickness of the stack. The shim also includes a blind housing within the thickness of the stack, that blind housing extends in the first direction, e.g., along line II-II in Figure 1. The housing is blind because it does not fully extend through the shim in the direction II-II of Figure 1. As discussed regarding claim 1, Brady does not disclose a blind housing. Therefore, the housing described in claim 29 distinguishes over Brady. Additionally, the housing described in claim 29 extends in the first direction, i.e., the direction that the sheets extend. As seen in Figures 1 and 5 of Brady, element 14 of Brady does not extend in the sheet direction; rather element 14 of Brady extends in the stack direction. This structural difference further distinguishes the housing of claim 29 over the teachings of Brady.

New independent claim 29 also describes the shim as including a dielectric envelope, which also extends in the first direction, seals and encapsulates the electronic component and is located within the blind housing. The electronic component comprises a memory, a transmission device, and an antenna. The antenna is proximate an opening at the surface of the shim. The Examiner has not alleged that

any of the cited prior art publications teach or suggest these features. Therefore, claim 29 is allowable.

Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-19, and 29-31 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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